

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A Petition for a One Month Extension of Time is enclosed.

In the specification paragraphs at pages 6, 7, and 11 have been amended to address the objections to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for claimed subject matter. The Applicants have incorporated various claim limitations into the specification as suggested by the Examiner. For this reason, Applicants submit that the objections to the specification should be withdrawn.

Claims 43, 50, 51, 64, 73, 75, 77, and 78 were objected to for various reasons set forth in the Office Action at pages 4 and 5. Applicants have amended these claims and have added new dependent claims 79 – 86 as suggested by the Examiner to overcome these various objections. For this reason, Applicants submit that the objections to the claims should be withdrawn.

Claims 43, 45, 47, 48, 52 – 54, 57 – 59, 61, 66, and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for having improper Markush language. Applicants have amended these claims as appropriate to incorporate proper Markush language. For this reason, Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

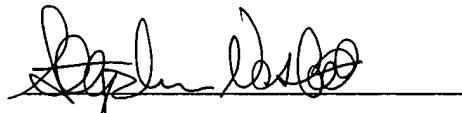
Claims 1, 46, 52, 56, and 74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP53/079972. Claims 1, 46 – 49, 52 – 57, 63, 64, and 70 – 76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura, et al. Claims 1, 46 – 48, 53, 63, and 74 – 76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP0328317. The Examiner helpfully indicated that claims 42, 44, 50, 51, 60, 62, 65, 67, 68, 77, and 78 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have canceled claim 1, and have rewritten claim 42, from which all remaining claims depend, such that all claimed compositions now must also comprise cations, in addition to pullulan and a setting system. The Examiner has stated in the reasons for indication of allowable subject matter that claims so limited would overcome the prior art rejections. Thus Applicants submit that the prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

Applicants will file a continuation application in order to pursue claims to additional subject matter that the Examiner has indicated may be allowable.

Applicants submit herewith a certified copy of EPO 00401333.0 as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) in order to perfect the claim for foreign priority.

Respectfully submitted,



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